

ELS AND NELS MERGED JANUARY 1, 2015

Three Rivers Library System was born on January 1st. The TRLS board has conducted first round interviews for a director and hopes to have an announcement soon. In the meantime, the activities of the organization are being led by Gail Formanack, interim director (former director of Eastern Library System). The NELS office in Columbus has been vacated, and operations have been consolidated into a single location, currently in Omaha. Sarah Warneke, previously director of NELS, has taken a job at the Mandan (North Dakota) Public Library.

Continuing education events are still happening, and consulting services are available. Please don't hesitate to contact the TRLS office if you have questions or need assistance. Book sets are still available for loan from the Omaha office. If it isn't convenient to pick up books, they can be mailed to your library. Call 402 330-7884 or e-mail gformanack@windstream.net.

Anyone who was signed up for the ELS or NELS listservs were automatically moved to the TRLS listserv at the beginning of the year. The TRLS website is under construction.

The TRLS Board of Directors (pictured below) is working hard to make the transition as painless for libraries as possible. Please don't hesitate to contact a board member if you have questions or concerns.

Front row: Francine Canfield, Laura England-Biggs, Rose Barcal. Back row: Lauran Lofgren, Aimee Morlan, Beth Foulks, Kathy Ageton.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Behavior Tips.....	2
One Book One Nebraska	2
Professional Development	3
Calendar	3
Curb & Counter Appeal	4
Library News	5
Events.....	6-10

Contact the TRLS Office:

11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha NE 68144

402 330-7884

800 627-7884

gformanack@windstream.net

Gail Formanack, interim director



BEHAVIOR TIPS BY GAIL FORMANACK

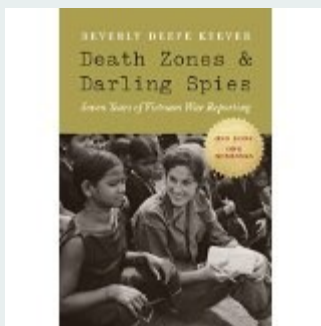
Is your library filled with kids after school as they seek a place to gather when the weather is too cold to hang out outdoors? Do you sometimes struggle to find the balance between creating a welcoming environment for young people while also accommodating the needs of your older patrons? A former colleague recently shared some concerns about the behaviors of the after school group in his small town library, so I thought I'd share some "teacher tips" that may help you cut down on some unwanted behaviors.

1. Consistently communicate expectations for behavior. Perhaps post a few simple rules that you can point to when kids need a reminder.
2. Utilize attention getting and non verbal techniques. Raising your voice to shout over their voices can just escalate the noise problem. When doing a group activity or story time, a simple statement such as "1,2,3, eyes on me" can help gain their attention.
3. Give directions explicitly and visually. Break down the steps, and tell kids to wait for your signal to begin.
4. When planning children's activities, plan for transitions every 10-20 minutes. Attention spans for kids can be rather short, even for older school-aged children.
5. Have some "finished early" activities ready to go for those who race to complete the craft or activity.
6. Endeavor to make a positive connection with a child every time they visit the library. Know their names and use them. Remember and remark about their reading interests. If you have exhibited a genuine caring for the child, you may only need to deliver a frown or shake of the head to redirect any unwanted behavior.

ONE BOOK ONE NEBRASKA

On January 14, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts proclaimed 2015 as One Book One Nebraska: *Nebraska Reads Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting* (University of Nebraska Press, May 2013) by Beverly Deepe Kever. This program promotes a culture of reading and discussion in Nebraska by bringing the state together around one great book by a Nebraska author. This year marks ten years of the program sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, University of Nebraska Press, and Nebraska Library Commission. "This book was the committee's choice based on Kever's compelling prose and ability to analyze complex historical/political contexts to provide insight into America's military and financial involvement in Vietnam," said Rebecca Faber, chair of the Nebraska Center for the Book's One Book One Nebraska Selection Committee. "Her Nebraska background provided a tie to the response of Americans at home who were trying to comprehend a war like no other in which the United States had been involved." Kever was the longest-serving American correspondent covering the Vietnam War and earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination for her reporting. She received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a doctorate from the University of Hawaii, where she is currently professor emerita. In *Death Zones and Darling Spies*, Kever describes what it was like for a farm girl from Nebraska to find herself halfway around the world, trying to make sense of one of the nation's bloodiest and bitterest wars.

If you have book clubs interested in reading this selection, ten copies are available for loan from the Three Rivers Library System office.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

From Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission

One of my New Year's Resolutions was to improve my Excel skills. Were you hoping to brush up on any desktop skills this year?

Now there's a great way to do this. The Nebraska Library Commission is making self-paced online courses from **SkillSoft** available to all Nebraska library staff members.

The classes take about an hour to complete. They're online; you can do them at your own pace. You can earn C.E. credit.

There's a "jumping off" page on the NLC Website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/skillsoft.aspx> that explains how to get started.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Big Talk from Small Libraries 2015

This annual online conference is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2015 between 8:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT).

Registration for the fourth annual one-day online conference is now open at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgId=13815>.

Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small their library is, but if your library serves a few thousand people, or a few hundred, this is the day for you.

Topics will range from technology (new tech and old tech) to programming to new roles for the library. Come for the programs on what you're dealing with now, or maybe try something new.

GoToWebinar login instructions will be e-mailed to registered attendees the day before the conference.

Multiple attendees at your location:

If several staff members from the same library want to attend the same online session, please consider registering for one seat and having staff members view/listen together via one workstation. List Additional Attendees on the one registration that is submitted for your library.

Viewing parties:

You are also welcome to arrange a viewing party for library staff in your area. Feel free to host a viewing and invite staff from other libraries. You only need to register for one seat with the conference. You can list your Additional Attendees on your one registration or you can send us a list after the event.

Calendar of Events

February 13, 12:00 p.m.

TRLS Board meeting

Keene Memorial Library in Fremont

February 19, 10:00—3:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Workshop

Northeast CC—Norfolk

February 23

Basic Skills—Reference (register by 2/13)

March 9

Basic Skills—Intellectual freedom and the core values of librarianship (register by 2/27)

March 10

NLA Advocacy Day, State Capitol

March 21

Nebraska School Librarians' Day—Omaha, Kearney, North Platte

March 27 9:00—12:00

Creating Caring Connections: a Powerful Approach to Building Relationships with Young Children—Sump Memorial Library in Papillion

March 29

Basic Skills—Readers Advisory (register by 3/13)

Spring PLTS Meetings

April 22—Alliance PL

April 23—Kearney PL

April 24—Columbus PL

TRLS Board

Francine Canfield, President

Baright Public Library (Ralston)

fcanfield@cityofralston.com

Lauran Lofgren, Vice-President

Wayne Public Library

llofgren@cityofwayne.org

Laura England-Biggs, Secretary

Keene Memorial Library
(Fremont)

Laura.biggs@fremontne.gov

Rose Barcal, Treasurer

La Vista Public Library

rbarcal@cityoflavista.org

Aimee Morlan

Weeping Water Public Library

ww60031@windstream.net

Beth Foulks

Ponca Carnegie Library

cbsr@gpcom.net

Kathy Ageton

Lutheran High Northeast

kageton@lhne.org

Staff

Gail Formanack, interim director

gformanack@windstream.net

CURB AND COUNTER APPEAL WORKSHOP

Pat Wagner, Pattern Research, presented the workshop Curb and Counter Appeal: A Visual Audit of Your Library to public and academic librarians on Friday, February 6th at the North Bend Public Library. She encouraged participants to get past the “sacred cows” and begin to think differently about the library. She urged us to look toward retail businesses for examples of visually appealing merchandising. “Think like a customer” was her sound advice. Even on a tight budget, she challenged everyone to use light, space, and paint to create a more visually appealing library.

Some specific things to check are:

- External and internal lighting—no dark corners
- Attractive landscaping
- Clean and neat—inside and out
- Clean, attractive, sweet-smelling bathrooms and public spaces
- Clutter-free public spaces—signs, papers, materials, furniture
- Adult and child-friendly signs: consistent, clear, properly positioned
- Adult and child-friendly arrangement of shelves, tables, books, materials
- Draw people with spotlights and color
- Remove books to make room for people



Workshop participants pictured above include Kathy Doescher (West Point), Tricia Dusatko (Clarkson), Dee Johnson (Northeast CC—Norfolk), and MeMe Smith (Schuyler).

Left: Pat Wagner, Pattern Research

LIBRARY NEWS

Nancy Black, previously at Mead Public Library, will become the new director of Tekamah Public Library. She is replacing Joyce Grass who is retiring.

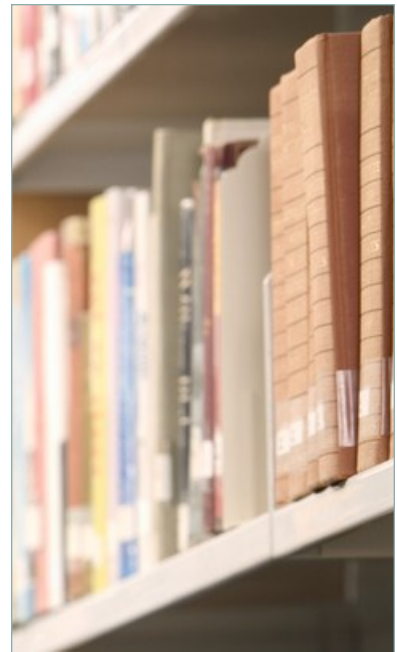
Robin Clark, director at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, will be leaving in March to move to Emporia, Kansas where she has accepted the position of director of their public library. To celebrate Robin's good work in Nebraska libraries and her many contributions to the Nebraska Library Association, please join your colleagues at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion on **Friday, February 20th between 5-7PM** for coffee, cake and camaraderie.

Tammy Lorenz, Beemer Public Library director, will be retiring soon. The village is currently searching for her replacement.

The new Ashland Public Library and Community Resource Center opened to the public in late December. They held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on February 7th.

The Bennington Public Library is kicking off a \$1.1 million fund-raising campaign for library expansion. The phased project will utilize space in their current building that has been vacated by the Bennington Rural Fire District.

Lynda Muller, library director at Vatterott College in Omaha, recently left the school to take a new position in Florida.



“Every library should be aware of the high quality, free resources available from Common Sense Media.” commonsensemedia.org

COMMON SENSE MEDIA

All libraries should be aware of the free resources available from Common Sense. This non-profit organization is dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. Kids today spend over 50 hours of screen time every week. The media content they consume and create has a profound impact on their development. Learning how to use media and technology wisely is an essential skill for life and learning in the 21st century. Commonsense is dedicated to providing tools to help parents and teachers make sense of the rapidly changing digital world.

Common Sense Media helps families make smart media choices. They offer the largest, most trusted ratings and reviews for movies, games, apps, TV shows, websites, books, and music. Resources are available for programming to help families understand the problems and possibilities of raising children in the digital age.

Common Sense Education provides teachers and schools with free research-based classroom tools to help students harness technology for learning and life. Their free K-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum and interactive games teach students how to make safe, smart, and ethical decisions in the digital world. Their educational rating system, Graphite, helps educators discover, use, and share high-quality digital products that propel student learning. Their curriculum has been evaluated and approved for compliance with the mandate to teach Internet safety as one of the “strings” in receiving federal e-Rate dollars. Many of the lessons were piloted in Nebraska, and training is available for the curriculum tools.

Common Sense also works with policymakers, industry leaders, and legislators to ensure safeguards are in place to protect student privacy and to close the digital divide.





Three Rivers Library System

Summer Reading Workshop

February 19, 2015

10 am to 3pm

Northeast Community College – Lifelong Learning Center
801 E. Benjamin, Norfolk

9:45—10:00 am	Registration & Refreshments
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome
10:05—10:55	Comic Book and Graphic Novel Superheroes – Scott Childers (SELS)
10:55—11:45	Variations on a Hero Theme - Gail Formanack (TRLS)
11:45 - 12:15	Lunch
12:15 - 1:05	The Science of Heroes - Mrs. Science
1:05—1:55	Heroic Books from Sally – Sally Snyder (NLC)
1:55 - 2:05	Break
2:05 - 3:00	Heroic Craft and Activity Ideas – Laura England-Biggs

Cost: \$20 (checks to TRLS) which includes lunch

4.5 hours continuing education credit available.

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

You must register by February 11th. Make sure you let us know you are coming, even if you are waiting for the city to send payment.

Name_____

Library_____

Phone_____

Email_____

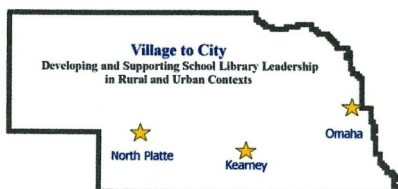
Send to: gformanack@windstream.net or

Three Rivers Library System

11929 Elm Street, Suite 18

Omaha, NE 68144

Sponsored by the Nebraska School Librarians Association, University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska at Kearney with support from the Nebraska Library Commission and the state regional library systems



Nebraska School Librarians' Day: It's All about Literacies!

Saturday, March 21, 2015 at a location near you.

Omaha, UNO Roskens Hall Ideas Room -- Registration at 8:30 AM. Sessions start at 9:00 AM

Kearney: Kearney Public Library -- Registration at 9:00 AM. Sessions start at 9:30 AM

North Platte: North Platte High School-- Registration at 8:30 AM. Sessions start at 9:00 AM

Registration, Coffee and Refreshments

Wrapping Your Head around the Nebraska's Multiple Literacies Standard

Omaha – Courtney Pentland, Omaha Public Schools and Kim Gangwish, Bellevue West High

Kearney – Angie Richeson, UNK

North Platte – Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO

Break and NSLA Door Prizes

Technology and Multiple Literacies

Omaha – Sara Churchill, Arbor Park Intermediate School and Gavin Flint, Bryan High

Kearney – Michael Sauer, Nebraska Library Commission

North Platte – Wendy Loewenstein, UNO

Literature and Literacy Strategies/Books

Omaha – Kim Jones, Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and Annette Luedtke, Belle Ryan Elementary

Kearney – Dr. Carrie Kracl, UNK

North Platte – Tiffany Frost, Papillion La Vista South High

Lunch and short presentation from NSLA

Round Robin Book Reviews for All Grade Levels

Book review sessions will be interactive. **Please bring two books you would like to share**

Omaha Facilitators – Jo O'Garro, Central Park Elementary and Jill Annis, Grandview Middle School

Kearney Facilitators – Angie Richeson and Dr. Sherry Crow, UNK

North Platte Facilitators – Patty Birch, North Platte High School and Mary Reiman, Lincoln Public Schools



Registration

Cost—\$20.00 (includes lunch). Please register by **March 13**.

Make checks payable to **Nebraska School Librarians Association** and mail to:

Kim Gangwish, Executive Secretary
Bellevue West High School
1501 Thurston Ave.
Bellevue, NE 68123

Name _____ School _____

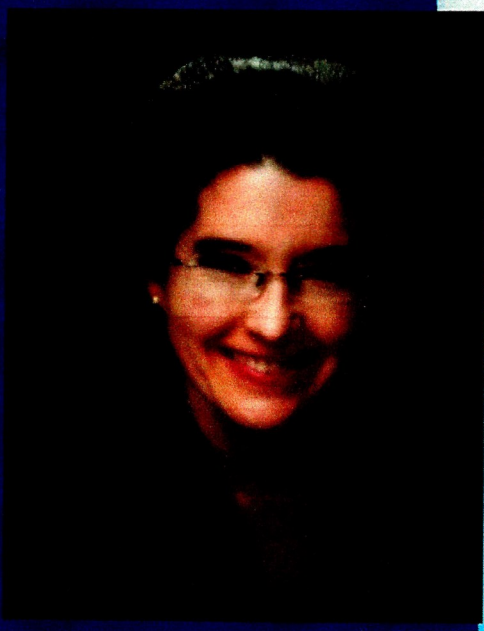
Email _____ Special diet (gluten free, vegetarian, etc.) _____

Phone (cell or home in case of weather) _____

Which site are you attending? ____ Omaha ____ Kearney ____ North Platte

Who We Are, What We Do, Why It Matters: Why Nebraska Needs Libraries More Than Ever

Registration Fee:
Only \$30



Presenter: Valerie Gross,
President & CEO of Howard
County Library System,
Maryland

**9:30 AM
to
3:00 PM**

April 22— Alliance Public Library

April 23— Kearney Public Library

**April 24— Columbus Public
Library**

Learn to describe your work and profession in terms that people understand and value. Explore, discuss, and practice proven techniques to:

- x Redefine libraries in a new, innovative way
- x Align your library with what the community understands: education
- x Incorporate intuitive, value-enhancing words into your everyday lexicon
- x Heighten your library's visibility, stature, and funding
- x Develop strategies that you can integrate immediately into your work



PLTS Spring Meetings 2015

Major Sponsor: The NLA Public Library and Trustee Section. (We use your NLA dues to make terrific events like this one possible!) **Co-sponsors:** Central Plains Library System, Southeast Library System, Three Rivers Library System, and Western Library System. **This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.**



Public Library and Trustee Section 2015 Spring Meetings

Who We Are, What We Do, Why It Matters: Why Nebraska Needs Libraries More Than Ever

April 22-Alliance Public Library

April 23-Kearney Public Library

April 24-Columbus Public Library

9:30 -10 am Coffee & Registration

10 am - 12 pm Part I: Getting It Together

- The "Libraries = Education" Vision
- The Power of Language
- Q&A

12 -1 pm

Lunch on your own

1 - 3 pm

Part II: Putting It Together

- Implementing the Vision
- Education Innovation
- Q&A/Wrap-Up

3:30-5:30 pm Navigating the Law (Kearney only)

An extra, optional workshop with Richard Miller of the Nebraska Library Commission. Especially geared towards library directors and trustees.

Registrant's Name: _____

Library Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Location: ☐ Alliance ☐ Kearney ☐ Columbus ☐ Kearney with additional workshop (add \$5)

Include a **check for \$30** made out to the **NLA Public Library and Trustee Section** with this registration form. Send to Amy Hafer, NLA PLTS Secretary/Treasurer, Hastings Public Library, 517 W 4th St., Hastings, NE 68901.

Registration deadline is April 10. Late or onsite registrations will be \$40.

Questions about registration? Contact Amy Hafer at amy@hastings.lib.ne.us or 402-461-2348, or Todd Schlechte at tschlechte@omahalibrary.org or 402-521-0405.

Co-sponsors: Central Plains Library System, Southeast Library System, Three Rivers Library System, and Western Library System. This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Creating Caring Connections

***A Powerful Approach to Building
Relationships with Young Children***

When: Friday, March 27, 2015
9:00 a.m. to Noon
Where: Sump Memorial Library
222 N Jefferson St, Papillion, 68046
Cost: FREE training!

To best meet the needs of young children's developing brains, the interactions they have with adults must have four qualities: nurture, engagement, structure and challenge. This session will present an approach to building relationships that supports optimal brain growth and social-emotional Development. Participants will not only know "the what" and "the why" but they will have lots of ideas on "how to" create these kinds of relationships with young children.

There is a \$15 fee for required materials - check or money order to ESU #3 (paid the day of the training)

**Pre-registration by March 20 is required!
To register, contact Cathy McMahon,
cathytmcmahon@gmail.com**



Brought to you by Sump Memorial Library and the Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha Area (ELC ECCOA). ELC ECCOA is the Early Learning Connection partnership supporting training, technical assistance and consultation for those who work with children birth through age eight in Cass, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. ELC ECCOA is supported in part by a grant from federal CCDF, and a grant from Part C and Part B, 619 IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) administered by the Nebraska Department of Education.



Three Rivers Library System Board Meeting
January 9, 2015

Meeting began at 1:35 pm

Present: Francine Canfield, Rose Barcal, Kathy Ageton, Gail Formanack, Beth Foulks, Luran Lofgren, Laura England-Biggs, Richard Miller (NLC). Excused absence: Aimee Morlan

Minutes from December meeting

Motion to approve: Luran Lofgren. Second: Kathy Ageton. Carried

Transition Activities:

Bank Accounts/Balances

Gail reported on the progress with getting names changed on bank accounts for NorthEast Library system accounts, which will become TRLS accounts once we have a new director.

The Commission has deposited the monies for TRLS into the First National account.

The two First National Bank accounts have a combine total of \$41,474.79. The Cornerstone accounts include the FNRA grant account (\$3,305.34) and three others for a total of \$26,800.84. Our cumulative balance is approximately \$67,474

Gail has paid the attorney bills and insurance covering both locations until Northeast is vacated, and the filing fees for the Secretary of State.

Office Lease

The landlord has been informed that the office is no longer needed; he reminded Gail that there are 6 months remaining on the lease. Gail negotiated to have that reduced to three months if we can vacate the premises by February 1 and clean both the carpeted and tiled areas. Gail is in touch with ServiceMaster who can do both for us.

Equipment

The electronics have been moved to Omaha (desktop computers) or returned to the vendor (copier). The computers were newer than what ELS had so Gail has worked to have the information and programs transferred to the former NELS computers. We will maintain both sets of QuickBooks until the new director is hired, at which time (s)he will be tasked with merging the accounts and creating a new set of records.

Furnishings

The Board agreed that we will host an "open house" on Saturday, January 17 from 10 am – 2 pm. Gail agreed to be the "hostess." Any libraries from the former ELS and NELS will be invited to pick up items of interest. Gail will send out a list of items (she has pictures she can share) that are available, first come first served. Gail will rent a U-Haul for January 28th to remove the remaining items to Omaha for storage/disposal. Dee Johnson said she would come open up for the carpet cleaners on the 29th or 30th.

Taxes and Payments

All W-2s have been issued to former system staff. Gail will require a 1099 at the end of her interim tenure.

Book Club Kits

One Book One Nebraska titles will be shipped to the Nebraska Library Commission. All other titles will be moved to Omaha for use until the Board decides what to do with the service. Gail reported that there were 20 book club kits picked up by Blair just this week. She noted that most libraries will not be able to afford the postage for kits and would prefer to pick up in person.

Records Retention

Gail reported that there seems to be no formal records retention policy for either system; the group discussed and agreed that 7 years for financial records is sufficient. Gail will retain 2-3 years and send the rest to the NLC. Corporate records need to be retained permanently. Laura will work on a draft retention policy for the next meeting.

Website

The website is up and running with continuing edits to include each library from the ELS under the NELS format.

Time Warner Contract

Gail has continued to negotiate with Time Warner; after 5 transfers, we may have a resolution soon. As long as we are willing to transfer service, not canceling, the Time Warner folks may be able to cut the system a break on the remaining three years (since Time Warner does not serve Omaha).

Continuing Education Plans:

Pat Wagner Workshop at North Bend

The group decided to charge \$20 for this workshop, including lunch for participants.

Summer Reading Program Workshop #2

Norfolk Lifelong Learning Center was suggested as the preferred venue. Gail will follow up to determine whether our preferred dates (February 19, 24 or 26) are available. Laura will coordinate make & take craft ideas for the event.

Director's Meeting

The group recommended tabling this until we know who the new director is, where the office will be. Quarterly seems to be enough for a goal, as many of the NorthEast counties have formed their own meetings to stay in touch.

Mileage Reimbursement Policy:

Neither System board had a firm policy on mileage reimbursement. With the increased size of the service area, the group agreed that we should reimburse those who do not have the ability to turn in mileage at work. We will reimburse at the current IRS mileage rate. For December, that rate was \$.565; starting January 1 it is \$.575.

Motion to approve payment of mileage reimbursement: Laura England-Biggs. Second: Rose Barcal. Carried.

Biennial Budget

Our Biennial Budget will be due to the NLC on March 1. Rose, Gail and Francine will work to create a budget to present at our next Board Meeting.

Personnel Issues

The group discussed the interview questions Francine had culled from the original set of 60 and suggested changes. Rose and Laura will ask the first question and continue conversing for about 10 minutes with any candidates at ALA Midwinter, then invite those they feel are a good fit to apply. Rose will bring copies of the application information. Any interested candidates should apply no later than Friday, February 6th at 5 pm Central time. Rose and Laura will email the board with a report on any viable candidates following ALAMW. The Board will interview two candidates on Saturday, January 24. We selected 10 am and 1 pm for the interview times. If only one candidate wishes to interview, 10 am is the preferred slot. Rose agreed to be our greeter for the interviews. Francine will call to schedule the interviews.

Richard had completed references on the two candidates – the Board asked to hold the information until both interviews were completed.

Richard will email the final copy of the Grant Agreement to Francine so she can pass along to the Candidates. They will also be given the opportunity to review at the interviews.

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 at NOON. Keene Memorial Library Annex Building

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Respectfully submitted
Laura England-Biggs
Secretary

